

# EUDORA AREA HISTORICAL SOCIETY NEWSLETTER



January 2015, Volume #27  
Written & edited by Ben Terwilliger

## Message from the Executive Director: Ben Terwilliger

Happy New Year everyone! I hope that all of you wonderful supporters of the Eudora Area Historical Society (EAHS) had a great 2014 and are looking forward to 2015. We certainly had another successful year at the EAHS in 2014!



*Ben Terwilliger discussing Eudora history with students from Eudora Middle School in April of 2014.*

In 2014 we once again made remarkable progress rehabilitating the historic property at 720 Main Street for future use of the Eudora Community Museum. In 2014, our property was transformed from a badly deteriorated and uninhabitable building into a safe, public-friendly and modern-functioning historic property.

We also kept busy with many other projects in 2014. We continued to improve the exhibits, added to our collections, accessioned thousands of previously un-accessioned artifacts, expanded our community outreach and welcomed over 1,200 visitors to the museum.

I am thrilled to be starting my fourth year as the Executive Director of the EAHS. I greatly look forward to the many more important goals we will achieve in 2015. With the EAHS Board, I will continue to provide the EAHS with vision and leadership and will follow the goals and ideals of our Mission Statement and Constitution.

If you are not a member, we would love to welcome you as a new member! Please tell everyone to visit our museum. And keep an eye out for Eudora related artifacts we could add to our collections. I hope you have a fantastic 2015!

-Ben

## Eudora Community Museum to open at 720 Main Street in Spring of 2015



*720 Main Street in October of 2014.*

We are excited to announce that our museum, the Eudora Community Museum, will open to the public at our new location at 720 Main Street in the heart of downtown Eudora in the Spring of 2015! The exact opening date has not yet been determined; stay tuned for the announcement of the exact opening date. We plan to have opening

ceremonies to commemorate everyone's dedication and hard-work towards this project. The museum will close at the Nottingham School location in late January of 2015 and be moved to 720 Main Street shortly thereafter.

### Updates on the Rehabilitation of Historic 720 Main Street



*Interior view of 720 Main Street, December 2014.*

In 2014 we rehabilitated the entire first story of our property at 720 Main Street. All structural repairs were made. All brick and stone masonry work was started and completed. A new concrete floor was installed. A new bathroom was constructed, which included new water/sewer connections. All electrical features were installed. New ADA compliant doors were installed. A new HVAC unit was installed. Most recently, a stained-pine bead-board ceiling was installed. A new roof and new guttering were added earlier in 2014. And finally, the property was added to the **Kansas State Register of Historic Places** in May. As you can tell, it was a productive year!

We will start the rehabilitation of the second story of 720 Main Street in February of 2015. We have over \$41,000 in the bank to help cover second story rehab expenses. We hope to finish second story rehab work by the end of 2015. Once the second story is completed, it will be home to much needed additional exhibit space.

Fundraising for this project has been very successful. We were amazed and grateful for the

widespread community support for this project. In 2014 we received large monetary donations from the Barton P and Mary D Cohen Charitable Trust, the Eudora Lions Club, the Eudora Odd-Fellows and dozens of other individuals.

We were also fortunate to receive over 3,000 hours of volunteer labor for this project in 2014. The volunteer labor has saved us tens of thousands of dollars and made this project a reality. The people to volunteer the most hours in 2014 were: Benny Dean, Bill Gordon, Tim Summers, Bill Whitten, Leonard Hollmann, Aaron Thakker, Brad Hemel, Eudora Public Works, Mike Westerhouse, Tim Shepard and Tim Slavin. There is unfortunately not enough space to list all volunteers for this project. We are thankful for the help from all of our volunteers!



*Volunteers "tuck-point" at 720 Main Street, June 2014.*

In 2015 we will need volunteer labor for this project more than anything else. If you, or anyone you know can help us rehabilitate these buildings, please contact us, **785-690-7900**.

This project is an investment which will have long term benefits for the community. This project will help preserve the History of Eudora and will contribute to the efforts to preserve and revitalize Eudora's Main Street.

### Financial Donations Critical to Success

We are grateful for all donations made to the EAHS! Every donation truly makes a difference and not only helps us preserve the History of the Eudora area, but serves the whole community.



The operational expenses of the EAHS are entirely funded by private donations. In the last several years we have expanded our operations. That also means our operational costs have expanded as well. The basic operational costs for the EAHS include utility payments, insurance payments and some basic supplies. We operate on a very conservative budget.

The yearly membership dues are enormously helpful. While paying your dues this year, please consider giving additional funds for our operational expenses. It really will make a difference and help us continue to grow as an organization and serve the community.

Please consider adding the EAHS to your Estate planning as well. The EAHS is a great opportunity for you to pass on your values and Eudora's History to subsequent generations. The EAHS is a registered 501c3 and all donations to the EAHS are tax deductible.

Finally, we are in need of a printer/scanner and its accompanying software. If you have one you could donate, we would really appreciate it!

### **New exhibit, "Eudora High School Football: Rising to New Heights," to debut in July of 2015**



*The 1932 Eudora High School football team.*

The EAHS is a partner site with the traveling Smithsonian exhibit *Hometown Teams*, which will be traveling through Kansas in 2015. As a partner site, we were given funds to develop our own sports-themed exhibit. The result is our new exhibit that documents the transformation of the EHS football program from its humble beginnings into a modern successful program.

The exhibit was made by Landyn Harris, an intern for the EAHS and recent graduate from KU. The exhibit will debut at the CPA Picnic in July of 2015. Several sports themed programs will also be hosted by the EAHS in 2015.

### **Exhibition and Collections Updates**



*1870s settee made by Eudora founder Charles Durr, donated to the EAHS in July of 2014.*

We exist to serve the public and we want to make visitor's experiences to our museum entertaining and educational. Therefore, exhibit development is important to us. We continue to improve our exhibits and add to our historic collections. Several notable donations made to the EAHS this year include furniture made by Eudora founder Charles Durr, furniture from the first Eudora Post Office (1850s), and several hundred historic photographs.

### **Museum Visitation**

We had another great year at the Eudora Community Museum in terms of visitation. In fact, we set a new visitation record with over 1,200 visitors in 2014.

Around 320 children visited the museum in 2014 through field trips, school groups and youth groups. The entire 3<sup>rd</sup> grade from Eudora Elementary School and the entire 7<sup>th</sup> grade from Eudora Middle School visited the museum in 2014 for standards based field trips. We believe educating Eudora's students about the History of their community is very important.

Our community outreach is not only limited to visitors to the museum. In 2014 we hosted six programs that were well-attended. We also reach thousands of people every year through our Facebook, Twitter and Instagram accounts.



3<sup>rd</sup> grade students from Eudora Elementary School, October 2014.

## Treasurer's Report

(As of January 1, 2015)

### EAHS Operational Accounts:

Checking	\$320.54
Savings	\$5,736
CDs	\$1,226

Total Operational: \$7,282.54

**Museum Rehabilitation Account:** \$41,446.98

## Programs for 2015

### January 15, 7:00pm at Eudora City Hall

"Eudora's Inventor and Visionary: Dr. Leo Lauber." Mark Lauber (Dr. Lauber's son) will present on the prolific impact his father had on the Eudora community from the 1960s-1990s.

### March 19, 7:00pm at Eudora City Hall

Program to be announced.

### May 21, 7:00pm at Eudora City Hall

"Fishing on the Kansas River." Presented by Barbara Higgins-Dover. Kansas Humanities Council sponsored speaker and program.

### July 16, 7:00pm at Eudora City Hall

"The Kansas City Monarchs in our Hometown." Presented by Phil Dixon. Kansas Humanities Council sponsored speaker and program, also in partnership with the traveling Smithsonian *Hometown Teams* exhibit.

### September 17, 7:00pm at Eudora City Hall

"History of Eudora High School Football." Panel discussion including former players/coaches. Program in partnership with the traveling Smithsonian *Hometown Teams* exhibit.

### November 21, 2:00pm at Eudora City Hall

"Kansas (KU) Basketball and the 1936 Olympics" Presented by Dr. Lorraine Madway. Kansas Humanities Council sponsored speaker and program, also in partnership with the traveling Smithsonian *Hometown Teams* exhibit.

## EAHS Elections

The Officers and Directors elected for the year 2015 are as follows:

### Officers:

President:	Steven Neis
Vice President:	Benny Dean
Treasurer:	Jim Harris
Secretary:	Alissa Meehan

### Area Directors:

Clearfield:	John More
Eudora:	Debbie Carden
Fall Leaf:	Kevin Reetz
Hesper:	Bill Gordon
Prairie Center:	Benny Dean
Weaver:	Lorene Cox

## Message from the President

I would like to thank the members of the EAHS for reelecting me President. We have made a lot of progress this year and will soon be moving into our new site at the Trefz building. I would like to thank all the volunteers and donors who made this possible. Let's have an even more successful 2015! -Steven Neis, President

*To join or renew your membership, or to make a donation, please provide the following information and return this form with your payment to:*

**Eudora Area Historical Society  
PO Box 158  
Eudora, Kansas 66025**

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Name\_\_\_\_\_Date\_\_\_\_\_

Address\_\_\_\_\_

City\_\_\_\_\_State\_\_\_\_\_Zip\_\_\_\_\_

Phone No.\_\_\_\_\_Email\_\_\_\_\_

**Membership Type (check one):**

☐ Individual      \$10.00

☐ Contributing      \$25.00

☐ Business      \$50.00

☐ Sustaining      \$50.00

☐ Lifetime      \$200.00

**Please check all that applies:**

☐ New Member      ☐ Membership Renewal      ☐ Donation

☐ Cash      ☐ Check      Amount enclosed \$\_\_\_\_\_

\*\*\*\*\*

**Other Donations:**

☐ I wish to make a donation to the EAHS operational general fund.

☐ Cash      ☐ Check      Amount enclosed \$\_\_\_\_\_

☐ I wish to make a donation to the project to restore the Trefz Buildings (720 Main Street) for use of the Eudora Community Museum.

☐ Cash      ☐ Check      Amount enclosed \$\_\_\_\_\_

## Information for the Eudora Community Museum

### Location

1428 Church Street, Eudora, KS.  
&  
720 Main Street, Eudora, KS.

### Hours

Typically open Tuesdays through  
Saturdays from 10am to 5pm.

### Contact

[EudoraHistory@gmail.com](mailto:EudoraHistory@gmail.com)

785-690-7900

### Mailing

Eudora Area Historical Society  
PO Box 158  
Eudora, KS 66025

### Online

City of Eudora's website, direct link:  
[www.cityofeudoraks.gov/  
index.aspx?NID=100](http://www.cityofeudoraks.gov/index.aspx?NID=100)

**“Like” the EAHS on Facebook!**

**EAHS Instagram/Twitter:  
@EudoraHistory**

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### EAHS Newsletter 2015

